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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Westhoughton Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report on the Health and Sanitation of the district during the year 1910.

The area of the district is 5,554 acres, containing over 19 miles of highway. Its geological formation is boulder clay over coal measures,

The population estimated to the middle of 1910 is 16,100, equal to a density of 2·8 per acre.

Year.	Number of Houses.	Population.	Average per House.	Average per Acre.
1907	3072	15956	5·1	2·8
1908	3104	15986	5·1	2·8
1909	3118	16100	5·1	2·8
1910	3136	16100	5·1	2·8

Summary of Statistics:

Year	Birth-Rate	Death-Rate	Zymotic Death-Rate	Phthisis Death-Rate	Respiratory Death-Rate	Rate of Deaths under 1 yr. per 1000 births
1910 ...	27·32	12·1	1·1	·86	2·4	109
1909 ...	28·8	12·1	·84	·43	2·8	137
Mean of 10 yrs., (1900-1909)	31·06	15·2	2·18	·52	3·5	147
Increase or decrease on:—						
(a) Prev's yr.	—1·4	...	+·26	+·43	—·4	—28
(b) 10 yrs. avg.	—3·74	—3·1	—1·08	+·34	—1·1	—38

Births.—440 births were registered during 1910, equal to a birth-rate of 27·32, which is below that of last year and a decrease on the previous 10 years average. Of the births 232 were males and 208 females. The average for the district during the last 10 years is 31·06, while the County Urban Rate for 1909 was 23·67, and that of England and Wales 25·6. There are no returns for illegitimate births.

Year	Total Births	Males	Females	Birth-Rate	County Urban Birth-Rate.	England and Wales
1906	459	235	224	29·1	25·11	27·0
1907	450	239	211	28·2	24·47	26·3
1908	495	250	245	30·96	25·05	26·5
1909	465	233	232	28·8	23·67	25·6
1910	440	232	208	27·3	...	...

Deaths.—There were 209 deaths registered in the district (including 14 which occurred in Public Institutions outside the district). Of the deaths 111 were males and 98 females. This is equal to a death-rate of 12·1 per 1000 of the population—exactly similar to last year, and against a 10 years average of 15·2.

Year	Deaths under 1 year	Total Deaths	Death-Rate	Zymotic Death-Rate	County Urban Death-Rate	Death-Rate for England and Wales
1906	46	185	11·7	1·52	14·8	15·4
1907	54	198	12·4	1·8	14·5	15·0
1908	77	269	16·8	1·68	14·6	14·7
1909	64	196	12·1	·86	14·08	14·5
1910	48	195	12·1	1·1	...	...

Infantile Mortality.—The reduction in this rate is very satisfactory. 48 deaths of children under one year were registered, compared with 64 last year, and a ten years average of 68. This is equal to a rate of 109 per 1000 births, as compared with 137 last year, and a ten years average of 147. Of the 48 deaths 19 occurred during the first month of life, 15 of these being due to premature birth or marasmus. This is an improvement on last year, and compared with other working class districts the rate is satisfactory. There is also a reduction in the number of deaths due to respiratory diseases.

Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Births—

Year	W'sthoughton	County Urban	England and Wales
1906	100	143	133
1907	120	129	118
1908	155	136	121
1909	137	119	109
1910	109	...	...
Av. 10 yrs (1900-09)	147	144	132

Zymotic Disease.—The district has been somewhat freely attacked by Infectious Diseases during the year. The majority of these cases were of scarlet fever, of which there were no fewer than 115 cases.

The Zymotic death-rate is slightly higher than last year, although well below the 10 years average for the district.

	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Enteric Fever	Diarrhoea	Total
Year								
1910 : Westhoughton Zymotic Death-Rate	Nil	Nil	·37	·12	·12	·37	·12	1·1
1909 „ „	Nil	·25	·06	·18	·06	·25	·06	·86
„ County Urban „	Nil	·39	·12	·15	·14	·10	·20	1·13
„ England & Wales „	·0004	·35	·09	·14	·20	·06	·28	1·12

The 18 deaths were distributed in the following wards :

Disease.	Central	North	South	East	Hulton	Total
Small-pox ... ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles ... ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	1	1	2	2	.....	6
Diphtheria & Membraneous Croup.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	2
Whooping Cough 	1	.....	.....	.....	1	2
Fever 	3	1	.....	2	.....	6
Diarrhoea ... ...	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	2

161 cases of Infectious Disease have been notified during the year against 70 last year, and a five years average of 94.

1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	Average
161	70	55	102	83	94

77 of the 161 cases were removed to hospital. A number of specimens for pathological examination were again sent to Professor Delelene, of Manchester University.

The affected houses have been visited, and their sanitary conditions inspected. The importance of isolation has been pointed out to those in charge and disinfectants supplied. After termination or removal of the case to hospital the houses were carefully disinfected by spraying solution and by means of sulphur fumes.

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total	Wards.						Rem'vd to hosp.					
														Central	North	South	East	Hulton	Total	Central	North	South	East	Hulton	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	2	5	5	24	9	15	9	17	4	13	12	115	21	40	27	15	12	115	12	22	17	8	5	64
Diph. & memb. croup	2	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	9	...	3	5	1	...	9	...	1	2	...	...	3
Erysipelas	2	1	1	2	2	...	1	1	2	1	1	2	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	4	5	6	1	20	7	4	1	7	1	20	3	3	...	3	1	10
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...

Smallpox.—There were no cases of smallpox during the year. The special hospital at Rogers' Farm is in a satisfactory condition. It is constantly heated and prepared for immediate admission of cases. There is accommodation for 8 patients.

Measles.—The district has been fairly free from this disease during 1910. A few cases have occurred, but they have been of a mild type. There were no deaths due to measles.

Scarlet Fever.—As previously stated, the district has been visited by an epidemic of this disease. Its distribution was very peculiar, very few of the cases being confined to any one area. Nor had we at any one time a very great number of cases, the notifications being consistently received week by week, corresponding to houses in various parts of the township. Another notable feature was the number of cases occurring in the outskirts of the district.

The Scot Lane district was greatly affected during early autumn, but the school holidays apparently helped us in stamping out this disease.

The disease was of mild type, only six of the 115 cases ending fatally.

Enteric Fever.—During the first six months only one case of typhoid fever occurred, but this was unhappily followed by a rather serious outbreak during the next few months, when 19 cases were notified. These cases were of severe type, and six ended fatally.

The majority of the cases occurred in the Central Area. A special report was made to you at the end of the year on this outbreak, and I can only repeat that in the absence of any definite information as to the origin of outbreak, I think it is fair to assume that the “carrier action” of flies and the existence of the privy midden system played the chief part in its spread. All possible precautions were taken to trace its source, and strict measures adopted to check its spread. As stated in the special report the disease has apparently been thoroughly stamped out.

Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup.—Nine cases were notified during the year as against 12 last year, being well below the average for the last few years. Of the nine cases three were removed to hospital. Two of the cases ended fatally.

Diarrhoea.—There were only two deaths from diarrhoea during 1910—one of these being under one year of age. Bearing in mind the long period of drought during September and October, I think our escape from serious epidemic diarrhoea is a matter for congratulation. Possibly the wall-posters giving public information as to care to be taken in preventing epidemic diarrhoea have done good service.

I hope to have the dangers associated with foodstuffs in the hot weather prominently brought before the public this year.

Year	Westhoughton Diarrhoea Death-Rate	County Urban Diarrhoea Death-Rate	England and Wales Diarrhoea Death-Rate
1906	·95	1·12	·87
1907	·62	·45	·29
1908	1·18	·59	·50
1909	·01	·20	·28
1910	·02	...	...

Respiratory Diseases.—Forty deaths due to respiratory diseases were registered. Of these 20 were due to pneumonia, and 19 to bronchitis. This rate shows an improvement on last year, and is, I think satisfactory, bearing in mind the cold damp weather experienced during the winter months.

Phthisis.—Fourteen deaths occurred from phthisis, as against seven last year, and this is equal to a death-rate of ·86, which is higher than for many years, although still lower than the average rate for the County Urban Districts.

The system of notification by Poor Law Authorities is the only one adopted in the district. Only one case was reported during the year. The home of this patient has been visited, and precautions taken to prevent the further spread of the disease. Some of the houses where deaths have occurred from phthisis have been disinfected, but in the absence of any system of direct notification it is only from the Registrar's

returns that we obtain the particulars of the affected houses. As in many cases considerable time elapses between the death and the receipt of the returns the value of the disinfection is somewhat minimised. I think a voluntary system of notification of phthisis or at any rate of deaths from the disease would help the Inspector and myself in our attempts to reduce the number of cases of the disease in this district.

Year	Westhoughton Respiratory Death-Rate	County Urban Respiratory Death Rate	Westhoughton Phthisis Death-Rate	County Urban Phthisis Death-Rate
1906	3·05	2·6	·44	·89
1907	3·2	2·99	·62	·95
1908	4·81	2·59	·43	·87
1909	2·8	2·81	·43	·90
1910	2·4	...	·86	...

Milk Supply, &c.—Visits have been regularly paid to the Dairies and Cowsheds in the district, and their condition is satisfactory.

The conditions affecting the wholesomeness of other foodstuffs sold in the district have been satisfactory. Visits have been paid to the various bakehouses and slaughter-houses, and their sanitary condition is satisfactory. I think the quality of foodstuffs offered for sale in this district is very good.

Water Supply.—The Bolton Corporation still supplies the district with mainland upland water. The supply during 1910 has been satisfactory, except in the Fourgates district, whence complaints have been received. Occasionally at certain times of the day (when a large quantity of water is being used in the district generally) the pressure at this high point is rather low. Of course, the matter is now under your consideration, and it is hoped to remedy the defect in the near future.

Examination of the water has been made from time to time, and the result found to be satisfactory. During the typhoid outbreak a special chemical bacteriological examination was made by Professor Delelene, and the negative result enabled us to eliminate the water supply as a means of origin.

The total number of houses supplied by the Council is 2992, the Bolton Corporation supplying the remainder in Hulton Ward district.

The total consumption for the year ending December 31st, 1910, was 66,207,000 gallons, giving an estimated consumption of 11·2 gallons per head per day.

There is river pollution in two streams in South Ward, both being caused by trade effluent. In one of these cases a civil action is now pending.

The Schools in the district have been visited, and their general and sanitary condition is satisfactory.

The Drainage of the district is satisfactory.

Sewerage.—The district is served by six sections of sewers, and the sewage is treated by chemicals and lime precipitation and irrigation.

The first section drains the whole of Daisy Hill (60 acres), and Leigh Road, and is delivered at Rogers' Farm. The second section drains Wearish Lane, Hart Common, Market Street, Church Street, Bolton Road, Park Road, Manchester Road, and part of Chorley Road. The sewage is delivered at Rogers' Farm.

The Sewage having first been mixed with sulphate of iron, and then with lime, is led into precipitating tanks, each of a capacity of 250,000 gallons. After precipitation the effluent is filtered through coke breeze and then on to the land. The effluent has been analysed and reported satisfactory.

The sewage from the third section is delivered at Dog Holes Farm (21 acres), and is led on the land and treated by irrigation alone.

The sewage from the fourth section (Hart Common and Marsh Brook) is delivered at Marsh Brook Farm (14 acres) and treated by irrigation.

The fifth section section draining the Hulton part of the district is connected with the sewer of the first section.

The sixth section which comprises Hulton Lane district is by arrangement, drained into sewers of the Bolton Corporation and is treated by them at a yearly charge of 10/- per house.

The sewerage system has worked very well during the year. Regular inspection of the precipitating tanks at Roger's Farm has been carried out during the year.

A most excellent work is being done in the converting of privy middens to the water closet system. 24 have been converted during 1910, but a loan has been applied for to the Local Government Board, which, if granted, will enable the work to be rapidly pushed forward this year.

The number of privy middens now in existence is 2727, whilst there are at present 463 water closets.

Scavenging has been satisfactorily carried out during the year. The work is mainly done by contract arrangement with farmers, but as previously pointed out in another report I think the system is an undesirable one, and even a source of danger as regards possible spread of typhoid fever. The ashpits are emptied every four weeks, except in case of a few which are emptied more frequently. During the time of the typhoid epidemic the ashpits of the affected houses were emptied weekly with all possible precautions, disinfected and buried. The refuse is deposited in tips owned by farmers on the land.

Factories and Workshops.—Regular inspection has been made during the year. Over 40 visits were made, and the sanitary conditions are generally satisfactory. In one instance the Inspector discovered insufficient closet accommodation, but this factory has since been closed. The sanitary condition of the domestic workplaces was again satisfactory.

Housing Accommodation—Eighteen houses have been erected during the year—an increase on last year. The type of houses built is up to the improved standard of the last few years.

Having appointed the Sanitary Inspector the officer under the Housing and Town Planning Act at the end of the year we expect to make sanitary progress as regards housing accommodation during the present year.

From the attached report it will be seen that a good work has been carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during 1910.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently

Feb. 27th, 1911.

WILLIAM H. LEIGH.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Westhoughton Urban District Council.*

JANUARY 1911.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report of the various Sanitary duties and improvements carried out during the year 1910.

One hundred and seventy-three visits have been paid to infectious cases, being more than twice the number of last year, this has taken up considerable time, the cases being scattered over the whole district. The houses have been thoroughly disinfected, and in many cases again limewashed or beautified throughout, and only in one case has it been found necessary to serve notice under Sect. 46, P.H.A., 1875.

Again I am pleased to report the very great satisfaction and appreciation expressed to me by the parents and relatives of those taken to Hospital, for the kindness and consideration shewn to them by the Matron and Staff of the Hospital.

Two hundred and six visits have been made to drainage work in the district, comprising visits to new houses, and to old houses with drains condemned, and which have been thoroughly re-drained, of which there have been twenty-three, and also visits to repairs to drains through being blocked or otherwise defective, of which there have been twenty-five.

Many visits have been made (of which it is impossible to keep a strict account) during repairs to privies and ashpits and to new sanitary erections of which there have been twenty-nine, and to houses condemned as unsafe or insanitary, of which there have been five and also appointments with owners, contractors, and others with

regard to the carrying out of work of a sanitary nature or the abatement of nuisances, of which eighty-two have been dealt with during the year.

Twenty-four privy middens have been converted to water closets, this is a slight decrease on last year; there are six in course of conversion and notice has been given for twelve others. It is to be hoped better progress will be made during the present year (1911) when the loan applied for has been sanctioned.

One hundred and thirteen letters and informal notices have been written for the abatement of nuisances, and seven statutory notices have been served. There have been no prosecutions during the year.

The principal nuisances dealt with have been insanitary privies and ashpits, premises insanitary and closed, blocked drains, overcrowding, animals kept in backyards, houses requiring limewashing and defective gullies and waste pipes.

The usual periodical visits have been made to Dairies and Cowsheds, Bakehouses, Workshops, Slaughter-houses, &c., these, with a few exceptions, have been found satisfactory, the want of lime-washing being the principal defect.

The carcase of a pig has been condemned as unfit for food, This had been killed by a farmer, who sent to the office for authority to sell the same. When examined, this was refused, and the carcase buried.

No action has yet been taken under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, as I was only appointed as Inspector under the Act in December, 1910, and as the dreadful calamity at the Hulton Pit (which is in this district) occurred on December 21st, which necessitated extra work in providing disinfectants and also disinfecting at the mortuary, &c. (in which I gratefully beg to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Jepson, the Atherton Inspector), and also seeing to the sanitary arrangements for the disposal of the bodies, there has been no time to carry out the provisions of the Act, but I hope shortly to be in a position to do so.

The removal and disposal of house refuse is again let to farmers by contract, with the exception of two districts emptied by the Councils' own man, and carted by farmers at so much per day, and one district in which the work is performed by the Councils' own carts and men.

The contract work has been fairly satisfactory during the year, except in two cases the contractors were reported, and one had penalty imposed.

The disposal of the refuse requires constant attention, and it is questionable whether farmers ought to be engaged in this work at all, having regard to the purity of the milk supply.

I again beg to acknowledge the kindness and support given by the Council, and for their assistance in carrying out the foregoing improvements.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. J. A. GREEN, A.I.S.E., A.R.SAN.I.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

